

Tatu City appeal case ruling set for March 8

by Paul Muhoho
@PeopleDailyKe

The owners of the Sh240 billion Tatu City project are still pursuing the abortive eight-year criminal case against pioneer partners Stephen Mwangi and his mother Rosemary Wanja. The parent company, Tatu City Limited, and its main subsidiary Kofinaf Company

Ltd, yesterday argued their appeal challenging the quashing of the prosecution of the Mwangis and lawyer Robert Githu for forgery and making false documents.

The two firms, which are represented by senior counsel Ahmednasir Abdullahi (pictured), are aggrieved by High Court judge Mumbi Ngugi's decision delivered



on November 12, 2013 stopping the two-count indictment against the three on the basis that it amounted to an abuse of the court process.

Sole shareholders

The trio was alleged to have forged a report by Assistant Registrar of Companies, Wilson Gikonyo, on June 11, 2010

that was used to register caveats on nine prime properties belonging to the firms.

The Mwangis had claimed to have been the sole shareholders and directors of Tatu City Ltd, which was previously known as Waguthu Holdings (K) Ltd, and applied to block any transactions on the land.

The judges reserved their judgement until March 8.

MCAs halt projects, claim not consulted

by Munira Mandano
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The fate of two multi-billion-dollar projects initiated by the National government in Kwale hangs in the balance after Members of the County Assembly halted them.

The Assembly passed a motion two weeks ago seeking to compel the National government to suspend plans to build the Sh34 billion Mwache Multi-Purpose Dam (pictured) and a Sh20 billion port in Shimoni.

Leader of Majority in the Assembly Raia Mwangi while moving the motion claimed the county leaders were not consulted when the projects were being initiated.

He argued the projects in question should be suspended to give room for comprehensive consultations and approval by the Assembly.

Board now reclassifies Ndhiwa road

by George Odiwuor
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The government, through the Kenya Roads Board (KRB), has approved the reclassification of a 48-kilometre road in Homa Bay.

Consequently, the Rodi Kopany-Ndhiwa Road will now be managed by Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) instead of Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA). The road connects Rodi Kopany township in Homa Bay county with Sori town in Migori county.

KRB director Michael Karanja and the chief executive Jacob Ruwa said the move will enable Kenyans to get value for money by eliminating rogue contractors using technologies that have not been approved by the government.

Charge Rotich, Bett over maize scam, says team

Senators want the two to take responsibility for allowing excess importation of grains in last year's open window

ABOUT THE SCAM

Millers took advantage of a duty-free window to import maize, which they later irregularly sold to the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB).

The Ministry of Agriculture, through NCPB, between May and October last year, bought 650,191 tonnes of maize from the importers.

The bulk of white maize originated from Mexico, South Africa and United States of America.

Other countries were Ethiopia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

was sold to the Agriculture ministry through the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) at inflated prices.

"It is regrettable that a majority of our farmers are yet to be paid for their produce even after the Executive promised they will be paid, reason being that the money was used to pay transporters, brokers and ghost farmers," says the report.

The committee said the money that the government had offered farmers was not agreed upon but the State was quick to pay the maize importers at inflated prices.



Treasury Cabinet secretary Henry Rotich when he appeared before the National Assembly Public Accounts Committee recently. His ministry okayed importation of duty free maize. PHOTO: FILE

The report questions why the Strategic Food Reserve Oversight Board (SFROB) authorised payments for the maize even after its term had expired.

Not suitable

The senators said Agriculture CS Mwangi Kiunjuri should develop regulations on importation of maize and other food crops, and table them before the Senate within 45 days.

"The Government agencies should maintain accurate records, without which they must be held responsible and accountable in accordance with the law."

The committee found out that no evidence was adduced to confirm that the Kenya Bureau of Standards (Kebs) carried out standard checks at the ports of entry during the period when the

duty free import window was exploited.

The committee states that following the complaints raised over the suitability of the imported maize, Kebs was directed to carry out sampling and testing according to the quality standards for all maize stored in the NCPB silos.

The report established that 63.3 per cent of the imported maize was substandard and not suitable for human consumption.

According to data produced by the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), 1,800 metric tonnes of maize was imported through Malaba One Stop Border Point (OSBP) during the period yet during the Committee visit to the area, members were shocked to discover that 12,400 metric tonnes was received and a further 43,100 metric tonnes at Busia entry point.

It is regrettable that a majority of our farmers are yet to be paid for their produce -Senators

by Anthony Mwangi
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Senators want Treasury Cabinet secretary Henry Rotich and his former Agriculture counterpart Willy Bett be held responsible for the excess importation of maize during last year's open window.

A Senate *ad hoc* committee probing the maize crisis, chaired by Margaret Kamar (Uasin Gishu), has asked the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) and Director of Criminal Investigations (DCI) George Kinoti to fast-track the probe and immediately seize the property of individuals found to have benefited from the illegal maize importation deal.

Farmers suffering

"The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Noordin Haji must ensure the investigations in the matters are concluded expeditiously and those found liable prosecuted," the team said.

The committee, in the report tabled in the Senate yesterday, revealed that the imported maize

IN BRIEF



Jailed

KERICHO STUDENT GETS 3 YEARS PROBATION FOR PROCURING ABORTION

A 17-year-old student, who was found guilty of procuring abortion, has been sentenced to serve three years on probation by a Kericho court. The minor appeared before Kericho resident magistrate Elizabeth Karani and was charged with concealing birth. The charge sheet stated that on November 5, at Poiywek village within Kericho county, she delivered a baby aged six months and concealed its birth.

-FELIX YEGON



Illicit liquor

TWO TRADERS CHARGED WITH IMPORTING, SELLING ILLICIT LIQUOR IN NAIROBI

Two liquor business partners arrested in Jerusalem Estate, Nairobi with more than 900 cartons of illicit liquor worth Sh1 million were yesterday charged in court with dealing in illegal importation and distribution of the liquor in Nairobi. Nahason Mathenge and Charles Wanjau appeared before Chief Magistrate Roseline Oganyo. They denied the charge and released on Sh1 million bond plus one surety bond or cash bail of Sh300,000.

-KINYURU MUNUHE



Tanui

VARSITY, KONZA CITY TO PARTNER TO IMPROVE STUDENTS' ICT SKILLS

Machakos University has partnered with Konza Technopolis Development Authority (KoTDA) to improve students' Information Technology skills. In the deal, the students will get a chance to hone their skills once a planned high-end research IT hub is completed next year. KoTDA chief executive Joseph Tanui (pictured) said the centre will enhance research and innovations. Machakos University Vice Chancellor Prof Lucy Irungu said the deal will help tap and nurture talents.

-KNA



Hersi

KENYA TO UNVEIL, MARKET FIRST WORLD WAR BATTLE ZONES TOURISM PACKAGE

Kenya will start marketing a new tourism package of former World War I battlefields in the country in Britain and Germany. The two countries were the main protagonists in the war that was fought in the East African region from 1914 to 1918. Kenya Tourism Federation chairman Mohamed Hersi (pictured) said the new product targets elderly visitors whose forefathers died in the war. He spoke while bidding farewell to visitors who had graced celebration marking end of the war in Taita Taveta county.

-KNA